



Michael Stanley introduces Detective Kubu

Who is Michael Stanley?

Michael Stanley is the nom de plume of **Michael Sears** and **Stanley Trollip**. We are both retired professors – Michael of Mathematics and Stanley of Computer Applications in Education.



Michael

We've been friends for a long time – nearly 30 years – and have traveled throughout southern Africa many times, mainly to Botswana and Zimbabwe. Many years ago we started to think of plots around the idea that

hyenas eat everything of a body, bones and all. That was the genesis of our collaboration.

We both have a variety of interests other than writing. Michael is an accomplished bridge player, as well as a connoisseur of food and wine. Stanley is a pilot and avid sportsman. We both love being in the bush, watching Africa's rich game and birdlife.



Stanley

Michael lives in Johannesburg, South Africa, while Stanley lived for many years in Minneapolis in the USA, but now lives most of the year in Knysna, a small town on South Africa's famous Garden Route, about 300 miles east of Cape Town.

Early reviews

The intricate plotting, a grisly sense of realism and numerous topical motifs ... make this a compulsively readable novel. **Publishers Weekly starred review, Feb 25, 2008**

The police procedural story line is superb with a strong obstinate hero... **Genre Go Round Reviews, February 9, 2008**

[A] fast-moving story... Rich with the atmosphere of modern Botswana, and peopled with interesting and well-drawn characters, ... an exciting debut... **Booklist, February 1, 2008**

Upcoming Signings

- April 1 Once Upon a Crime, Minneapolis, 7:00pm. 612-870-3785
- April 4 Magers and Quinn, Minneapolis, 7:30pm. 612-822-4611
- April 10 Bookcase, Wayzata MN, 6:30pm. 952-473-8341
- April 11 Centuries and Sleuths, Forest Park IL, 7:00pm. 708-771-7243
- April 12 Mystery One Bookshop, Milwaukee 11:00am. 414-347-4077
- April 15 Joseph-Beth, Cincinnati OH. 7:00pm. 513-396-8960
- April 17 Mysterious Bookshop, New York City, 7:00pm. 212-587-1011

Kubu prepares for April 1 Launch

Detective Kubu's first mystery adventure, *A CARRION DEATH*, will make its debut in Minneapolis at 7:00pm on April 1 at Once Upon a Crime bookstore. There is no truth in the rumor that free hyenas and hippos will be given away, but there will be cheese and wine, and plenty of excitement.

The novel is the culmination of ideas and discussions which go back to Botswana bush trips in the 1980s. Hyenas, elephants, hippos, the Kalahari and Savuti. But it was the middle of 2003 before we finally set finger to keyboard. Michael drafted the first chapter. Stanley was enthusiastic and wanted to know what happened next. Michael didn't know...

Please forward this newsletter to your reader friends.

That's when we realized we should work on the plot before we moved on to the next chapter!

It took two and a half years to get the book into a form we were comfortable with and then started looking for an agent. Six months later the wonderful Marly Rusoff agreed to represent us. Not long after that, she sold the worldwide English rights to HarperCollins in a two-book contract. As our English friends would say, "we were gobsmacked!" We had always thought we would self-publish and distribute copies to three or four hundred of our closest friends.

Now, five years after setting out to write a book for fun, we are about to watch it go public.

We are looking forward to the launch and particularly to meeting old and new Twin City friends. Then we will visit several Midwestern centers and bookstores to sign books and meet crime-novel lovers. Full details are at www.detectivekubu.com and Bookstore.com. We hope to see you at one of the events.

Visit www.detectivekubu.com.

Researching A Carrion Death

One of our goals in writing *A Carrion Death* was to provide readers with a feel for Botswana, its culture, its wildlife, and its physical beauty.

Even though we know the country well, we have returned many times to ensure the detail is accurate. We have visited the places where the action takes place and have spoken to many locals, including the Commissioner of Police, about the state of the country, past and present. Without exception we have been received with the greatest hospitality and generosity.



Stanley (left) and Michael (middle) researching the mokoro scenes for *The Second Death of Goodluck Tinubu*.



One of 140,000 elephants in Botswana

The Second Death of Goodluck Tinubu

In the second novel in the series, Detective Kubu faces another challenging crime, one that leads his own family into danger. The book is complete in draft form and is with our editors.

The mystery is built around events at a tourist camp – called Jackalberry Camp – on the Linyanti river in northern Botswana. We had planned a different location initially, but when we visited the area, we couldn't find the lush bird-friendly environment that we had written about. Our old friend, Peter Comley, who runs safaris out of Kasane in northern Botswana (<http://www.sgsafrica.com>) read our descriptions of the camp and immediately identified the location as the sort of environment one finds along parts of the Linyanti River.

When his partner, Salome Meyer, took us there, after a long, rough trip off the beaten track in an open Land Rover, we saw that Peter had been correct. The river worked its way lazily between reeded banks, birds were in abundance, as were crocodiles and hippos. We were stunned by how closely it resembled the imaginary location of our camp.

"Well," said Michael who occasionally tries to be clever, "okay, but where are the Jackalberry trees?" Salome looked pained.

"You're standing under one," she commented, pointing to a gorgeous, lush example spreading above us...

Quite a change from the Kalahari setting of the first book.

Once Upon A Crime has dated, signed copies of *A Carrion Death* for sale. Call (+1) 612-870-3785.

onceuponacrime@earthlink.net